National Climatic Data Center

DATA DOCUMENTATION

FOR

DATA SET 9799 (DSI-9799)
AFRICAN HISTORICAL PRECIPITATION

January 2, 2003

National Climatic Data Center
151 Patton Ave.
Asheville, NC 28801-5001 USA

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Table of Contents

1. Abstract: The major data variables and parameter that make up this file are station name, country name, year of data, and monthly precipitation.

The period of record varies per station. A few stations have records that begin in the late 1880's. The latest data in this file is 1981. Inventories of specific stations are available from the National Climatic Data Center in Asheville, North Carolina.

These data represent a collection data from of various sources in Africa, including publications from countries, hand-written data secured from visiting scientists, and in-country visits. The activity was supported by funds provided by the Agency for International Development (AID).

There are no related data files.

Data processing is as follows: The data were placed in computer compatible form at the Models Branch, Assessment and Information Services Center, Columbia, Missouri. Although the inputs were checked with what was received, and were used in the program for AID, it is suggested that the user of these data do his own quality check.

This digital data file contains historical precipitation values for three specific areas: (1) countries in subequatorial Africa, (2) countries in the Sahel and Horn of Africa, and (3) countries in Tropical West Africa.

Data are available on one magnetic tape. Tape information is as follows: ASCII, 6250 BPI, 9-track. There is one file on the tape. There are 136 characters per record and 100 records per block (13,600 characters).

Each logical record contains one year's monthly precipitation data for a station. The file is in station and year sort.

2.   Element Names and Definitions:

ELEMENT NAME	TAPE RECORD POSITION	ELEMENT DESCRIPTION
NCDC-CDE	1	NCDC-CDE: * or 1
	*	indicates that the only identification number for the station is the NCDC-ID.
	1	indicates that the station has an AGRHYMET, WMO-NUM and/or AISC-ID number. Any combination of the three is possible.
NCDC-ID	2-5	Numeric identifier ranging from 0015 to 5640, incremented by 5. Larger increments indicate delected stations.
AGRHYMET	6-13	Numeric identifier assigned by the Ministries of Agriculture and Meteorology. 9s indicate no number assigned.

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WMO-NUM      14-21              WMO Number.  9s indicate no number
                                assigned.

AISC-ID      22-29              Numeric identifier assigned by the
                                Assessment and Information Services Center
                                (AISC) of NESDIS.  9s indicate no number
                                assigned.

YEAR         30-33              The year of each specific record.

MON-PREC     34-81              A 4-digit value for each of the 12 months.
                                Precipitation measurement is in whole
                                millimeters.  9s indicate missing values.

STA-NAME     82-111             The alphanumeric name of each specific
                                station.

COUNTRY      112-136            The alphanumeric country identification.
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3.   **Start Date**: Some data form the late 1880's

4.   **Stop Date**: 1981

5.   **Coverage**: Africa

6.   **How to Order Data**:

     Ask NCDC's Climate Services about the cost of obtaining this data set.
     Phone: 828-271-4800
     FAX: 828-271-4876
     E-mail: **NCDC.Orders@noaa.gov**

7.   **Archiving Data Center**:

     National Climatic Data Center
     Federal Building
     151 Patton Avenue
     Asheville, NC 28801-5001
     Phone: (828) 271-4800.

8.   **Technical Contact**:

     National Climatic Data Center
     Federal Building
     151 Patton Avenue
     Asheville, NC 28801-5001
     Phone: (828) 271-4800.

9.   **Known Uncorrected Problems**: No information provided with original
documentation.

10. **Quality Statement**: No information provided with original documentation.

11. **Essential Companion Datasets**: None.

12. **References**: No information provided with original documentation.
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